

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 040117Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1985

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0008

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PDIP SREF PP ID

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER SOMARE TO VISIT JAKARTA; PNG-INDONESIAN
RELATIONS

SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER SOMARE WILL VISIT INDONESIA
OFFICIALLY FROM JAN 10 TO 16 IN THE FACE OF PNG-INDONESIAN
FRICTION OVER THE IRIANESE REFUGEE PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER SOMARE, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, FOREIGN
SEC SIAGURU AND TWO OTHERS FROM DFAT, WILL FLY FROM WEWAK
(HIS HOME TOWN) TO JAYAPURA, IRIAN JAYA, ON JAN 10 AS THE
FIRST LEG OF SIX-DAY VISIT TO INDONESIA WHICH WILL INCLUDE
TWO TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO. PROBLEM WITH IRIANESE
REFUGEES IN PNG WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE ONE SUBJECT OF
DISCUSSION. THIS PROBLEM, LONG AN IRRITANT IN INDO/PNG
RELATIONS, HAS RECENTLY BUBBLED TO THE SURFACE AGAIN.

2. INDO AMBASSADOR ROEDJITO, SINCE HIS ARRIVAL HERE
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(AS CONSUL GENERAL) THREE YEARS AGO, HAS PRESSURED
FONMIN KIKI TO DEPORT SOME 500 IRIANESE REFUGEES IN
PNG BACK TO INDONESIA. FROM TIME TO TIME KIKI APPEARS
TO HAVE LET ROEDJITO BELIEVE THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO
DEPORT THEM, BUT HAS THEN TAKEN NO ACTION TO DO SO.
QUESTION OF STATUS OF IRIANESE REFUGEES HAS RECENTLY
ARISEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE GRANTING OF PNG CITIZENSHIP

UNDER LAW WHICH BECAME EFFECTIVE AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE. ROEDJITO HAS ARGUED AGAINST GRANTING THEM CITIZENSHIP, SAYING HIS GOVT WOULD VIEW IT SERIOUSLY IF PNG CITIZENS AGITATED AGAINST INDONESIA (AS SOME IRIANESE REFUGEES HAVE DONE). KIKI HAS APPEARED TO RESPOND TO THIS PRESSURE, EVEN STATING IN PARLIAMENT THAT IRIANESE WOULD NOT RECEIVE CITIZENSHIP.

3. CITIZENSHIP FOR IRIANESE BECAME POLITICAL ISSUE WHEN DEP LEADER OF OPPOSITION LANGRO (WHO COMES FROM BORDER AREA AND HAS RELATIVES ON BOTH SIDES OF BORDER) POINTED OUT THAT GPNG IS GRANTING CITIZENSHIP TO SOME HUNDREDS OF WHITES AND ASKED WHY IT IS BEING DENIED TO THE MELANESIAN BROTHERS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEANS FROM IRIAN JAYA. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, ROEDJITO, WHO WAS IN JAKARTA TO PREPARE FOR SOMARE'S VISIT, REPORTEDLY MADE A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS THAT GPNG HAD AGREED TO NEGOTIATE ON THE DEPORTATION OF IRIANESE REFUGEES TO INDONESIA. INDO EMBASSY HERE SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED THE REPORT, BUT AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSION HAS LEARNED FROM MEDIA SOURCES THAT A TAPE WAS MADE OF ROEDJITO'S STATEMENTS WHICH CONFIRMS HIS REMARKS ABOUT DEPORTATION.

4. GPNG THEREUPON ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD GRANT CITIZENSHIP TO 157 IRIANESE REFUGEES AND KIKI SUBSEQUENTLY STATED THAT THE GPNG HAS MADE NO AGREEMENT TO DEPORT IRIANESE REFUGEES, THUS PULLING THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER ROEDJITO.

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5. COMMENT: AUSTRALIAN HICOM HAS TOLD US THAT GPNG HAD MADE DECISION MANY MONTHS AGO TO DIVIDE IRIANESE REFUGEES INTO THREE GROUPS: THOSE TO WHOM PNG CITIZENSHIP WOULD BE GRANTED; THOSE WHO COULD REMAIN IN PNG AS PERMISSIVE RESIDENTS BUT WITHOUT CITIZENSHIP; AND THOSE WHO HAD BEEN WARNED THAT ONE MORE MISSTEP AND THEY WOULD BE DEPORTED. AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THIS POLICY WE BELIEVE THAT KIKI HAS REGULARLY TOLD ROEDJITO WHAT ROEDJITO WANTED TO HEAR AND THEN ACTED AS THE GPNG SAW FIT.

6. ONE ASPECT OF SITUATION IS ANTAGONISM KIKI HAS DEVELOPED TOWARD ROEDJITO, PROBABLY STEMMING IN PART FROM ROEDJITO'S CONSTANT PRESSURING ON THE REFUGEE QUESTION AND IN PART FROM ROEDJITO'S ASSIDUOUS CULTIVATION OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE GOVERNOR GENERAL WHO IS POLITICAL ENEMY OF KIKI. WE UNDERSTAND THAT KIKI PREFERRED DEALING WITH ROEDJITO'S RECENTLY TRANSFERRED DEPUTY RATHER THAN ROEDJITO HIMSELF, AN APPROACH WHICH CREATED CONSIDERABLE FRICTION WITHIN

INDONESIAN EMBASSY. ANOTHER ASPECT IS THAT FONSEC
SIAGURU'S SISTER IS MARRIED TO AN IRIANESE REFUGEE,
AND SIAGURU HAS SAID THAT HE IS UNDER FAMILY PRESSURE
ON THE REFUGEE QUESTION.

7. BOTH WE AND THE AUSTRALIANS BELIEVE THERE WILL BE
SOME TENSE MOMENTS DURING SOMARE'S VISIT TO JAKARTA.
HIS STOPOVER IN IRIAN JAYA MAY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR
INCIDENT PRECIPITATED BY IRIANESE WHICH WOULD
ANTAGONIZE INDONESIANS. EVEN WITHOUT SUCH AN INCIDENT,
WE ANTICIPATE DIFFICULTIES.
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